

Message Text

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44

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /031 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4577

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

S E C R E T TEHRAN 8237

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JO, IR

SUBJECT: KING HUSSEIN COMMENTS ON ARAB-ISRAEL WAR

REF: AMMAN 6102

IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERY ON NOVEMBER 21, SHAH SAID THAT KING HUSSEIN HAD MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS DURING HIS TWO-DAY VISIT TO TEHRAN:

A. HUSSEIN CONFIRMED HE WOULD AGREE TO REFERENDUM ON WEST BANK WHICH WOULD ALLOW RESIDENTS TO DECIDE WHETHER THEY PREFERRED STATUS QUO ANTE, CONFEDERATION WITH JOMRAN OR INDEPENDENCE (REFTEL).

B. HUSSEIN HAD SHOWED THE SHAH A LENGTHY LIST OF ARMS WHICH JORDAN NEEDED TO ATTAIN MILITARY SUFFICIENCY. SHAH COMMENTED THAT HE WISHED TO SEE JORDAN MAINTAIN ITS INDEPENDENCE EVEN WITHOUT THE WEST BANK. HE REALIZED THAT A WEAK JORDAN COULD BECOME A VACUUM ATTRACTING HOSTILE POWERS. THE SHAH HAD LOOKED OVER THE ARMS LIST AND THE PRICES INVOLVED AND FELT FROM HUSSEIN'S ATTITUDE THAT HE WAS GOING TO REQUEST IRANIAN ASSISTANCE IN MAKING ACQUISITIONS. HOWEVER, THE KING DID NOT RAISE THE QUESTION OF CEANIAN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

C. KING SAID THAT SOVIET GENERALS IN BUNKERS IN DAMASCUS
SECRET

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HAD RUN THE SYRIAN WAR EFFORT. HE WAS EXTREMELY CRITICAL OF THEIR TACTICS. THE SOVIETS HAD ORDERED MASS TANK ATTACKS WHICH THE ISRAELIS HAD EFFECTIVELY HANDLED WITH TOW MISSILES. WHEN THE ISRAELIS WITHDREW, THE SYRIAN TANKS

HAD ATTACKED AGAIN AND WERE GIVEN THE SAME TREATRJNT.
HUSSEIN SAID THE SYRIANS HAD LOST 1,200 TANKS. HUSSEIN
COMMENTED THAT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE IRAQIS HAD BEEN
QTE TERRIBLE UNQTE. THE SYRIANS HAD MADE ALL THE MISTAKES
THEY MADE IN 1967 EXCEPT THIS TIME THEY DID NOT TURNFZAIL
AND RUN. HE MADE THE SAME OBSERVATION ABOUT THE EGYPTIAN
ARMY, CRITICIZING ITS TACTICS BUT NOTING THAT THIS TIME AT
LEAST IT DID NOT SURRENDER.

D. NOTING THAT KHADAFI HAD SAID THAT HE WAS PAYING CASH FOR
THE ARMS THAT THE USSR WAS PROVIDING TO SYRIA AND EGYPT,
HUSSEIN SAID THAT KING FAISAL WAS ALSO PROVIDING CASH FOR
PAYMENTS TO THE SOVIETS FOR ARMS TO SYRIA AND EGYPT.
HELMS

SECRET

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